

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Access equipment systems 6 aggregate and multiplex the data received from user devices 4. Examples of access equipment systems 6 include digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM), multiplexers, etc. Data received at access equipment systems 6 are then sent to ~~routers 8~~ telecommunication nodes 12. Data from a single access equipment system 6 are typically sent in a specific data format and a specific data rate. For example, the data formats include SONET/SDH (OC3, OC12, OC48, etc.), DS3/E3, Ethernet, Gigabit Ethernet, etc. Data in these formats are also transferred at various data rates, where a fixed data rate is associated with a format. Also, the type of physical connection may limit the data rate in which data is transferred. For example, ATM circuits may transfer data at one rate and SONET networks may transfer data at another rate.